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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 6530.0145-01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Jose L. FRANCESE et al. )  
) Group Art Unit: 3736  
Application No.: 09/977,401 )  
) Examiner: D. J. MCCROSKY  
Filed: October 16, 2001 )  
)  
For: SUCTION ADAPTER FOR )  
MEDICAL INSTRUMENT )

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 06 2004**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

A copy of the listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and make an appropriate notation on the attached Form PTO 1449 that the listed document has been considered.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement that is not otherwise provided with this filing, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
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Dated: January 28, 2004

By: 

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